



Sunday, October 11, 2026

Chile begins its tenure as Guest of Honor at the 2027 Frankfurt Book Fair

Chile begins its role as Guest of Honour of Frankfurter Buchmesse 2027 with a focus on Gabriela Mistral

- In a ceremony dedicated to the life and legacy of the Nobel laureate, the Czech Republic officially passed the baton to Chile. The ceremony concluded a week full of literary events and professional meetings that enlivened the 2026 edition of the fair, and marked the start of the countdown to October next year, when the country will take centre stage at the world's most important publishing event.
- Today also saw the launch of the official website of Chile as Guest of Honour at <https://frankfurt2027.cultura.gob.cl/>, which will feature all the latest information, including press releases, open calls, trailers, registrations and much more.

This Sunday, the close of Frankfurter Buchmesse 2026 brought a long-awaited moment for Chile: the Czech Republic handed Chile the "Guest Scroll", a symbol that officially names Chile Guest of Honour of Frankfurter Buchmesse 2027 and marks the start of the countdown to October next year.

"This is a major milestone for Chilean culture. We carry the responsibility of being Guest of Honour of Frankfurter Buchmesse 2027 with pride – an extraordinary opportunity to show the world the richness and diversity of our literature and our artistic creation. And we are doing so by choosing Gabriela Mistral as our representative, whose work and life embody a voice that is as Chilean as it is universal. We want Frankfurt to open new doors for our writers, for our books to cross borders and reach new readers and other languages, and for Chile to strengthen its cultural and professional ties with the world. This is a challenge that commits us as a country and that should bear fruit well beyond 2027," said Francisco Undurraga, Minister of Cultures, Arts and Heritage.

According to Marifé Boix García, Vice President for Southern Europe and Latin America at Frankfurter Buchmesse, the Guest of Honour's presence in Frankfurt officially begins with the handover ceremony. "This year, Chile has come with a strong and diverse delegation of authors and book industry professionals, who are ultimately the protagonists of this invitation," said Boix García.

Representatives from Chile and the Czech Republic attended the ceremony in the Forum at Messe Frankfurt. On this occasion, Nicolás Leyton, Executive Director of the "Frankfurt 2027" project, officially received the "Guest Scroll" from the Czech delegation, stating: "For us, this ceremony is both the formal and the symbolic starting signal for a new phase. The outgoing Guest of Honour is passing the baton to us, and with it the

responsibility of taking on a year of intensive work. It is a challenge that goes beyond literature, because this participation will allow us not only to make our authors known, but also to give worldwide visibility to other artistic and cultural expressions of Chile. Today we leave the planning phase behind and move into action.”

As part of this tradition, Chile has added an excerpt from Gabriela Mistral’s “*Pasión de leer*” to the “Guest Scroll”, a work that explores reading as an experience of encounter, discovery and transformation. The choice of the poet carries deep symbolic value: in 1945 she became the first Latin American author to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature. Her internationally recognised legacy will accompany the beginning of this new phase and place literature and the promotion of reading at the heart of Chile’s participation in Frankfurter Buchmesse 2027.

The celebration also featured a contribution by Chilean illustrator Alberto Montt and a musical performance by the Chilean duo Dënver.

Chile in Frankfurt 2027

Over the next 12 months, Chile will develop its preparatory programme for the fair, which takes place from 6 to 10 October 2027. This will include literary and cultural events, international promotional activities and meetings aimed at strengthening ties between book industry professionals in Chile, Germany and other markets.

The invitation offers a platform for Chilean literature to find new readers, expand its presence in other languages and broaden the reach of its works. Translations and the sale of publishing rights are part of this work, as is building professional relationships that can last beyond 2027.

During the fair, the LatAm Stage, sponsored by Chile, closed its programme with “Una variedad de voces de Chile” (A Variety of Voices from Chile). The joint reading brought together seven authors with different backgrounds: Alejandra Costamagna, María José Ferrada, Alberto Fuguet, Carmen García Palma, Juan Cristóbal Peña, Carlos Soto Román and María José Viera-Gallo. The event was moderated by Corinna Santa Cruz of Büchergilde Gutenberg.

Seven authors, seven life stories and seven ways of writing from Chile: the reading offered an insight into the diversity of the country’s contemporary literature. At the close of the week, it also highlighted what Chile’s appearance in Frankfurt is all about: the books, their languages and the possibility that a story might find a reader in another part of the world.

Chile’s next stop is the Leipzig Book Fair from 18 to 21 March 2027, where the country will have its own 12 m² stand and a programme featuring Chilean authors. There, Chile hopes to meet German readers and continue working on its international positioning ahead of the main event in Frankfurt.

Chile as Guest of Honour

Chile will be Guest of Honour at Frankfurter Buchmesse in October 2027. Its participation is led by the Ministry of Cultures, Arts and Heritage (MINCAP) as part of the “Frankfurt 2027” project, together with the Division of Cultures, Arts, Heritage and Public Diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DIRAC), ProChile and Imagen de Chile.